

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Canceled)

Claim 2 (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Canceled)

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) The bumper or guard defined in Claim 3 11 including:

a core provided in said pad joined by said reinforcement ribs; and
said shaft outwardly projecting from said core.

Claim 5 (Original): The bumper or guard defined in Claim 4 wherein:

said distal end includes a pair of flat surfaces converging together to form a wedge tip.

Claim 6 (Canceled)

Claim 7 (Canceled)

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The protective bumper and guard defined in Claim 7 12 including:

a plurality of cavities in said semi-rigid material opening through said flat bottom to define a plurality of reinforcement ribs.

Claim 9 (Original) The protective bumper and guard defined in Claim 8 including:

a central core between said cavities for supporting said shaft so as to cantilever outwardly from said pad from said flat bottom.

Claim 10 (Original) The protective bumper and guard defined in Claim 9 wherein:

said semi-rigid material is of a flexible and soft composition.

Claim 11 (New): A bumper or guard comprising:

a thickened pad having a flat bottom;

an elongated shaft having a distal end providing a wedge and an opposite end having a retention head;

said head embedded in said pad with said shaft outwardly projecting from said pad;

said pad is dome-shaped with a flat circular underside;

said shaft projecting from said flat circular underside along a longitudinal axis of said pad;

said pad composed of a semi-rigid material adapted to permit penetration by jagged edges;

said pad includes a plurality of cavities opening through said flat circular bottom; and

said cavities defining a plurality of reinforcement ribs.

Claim 12 (New): A protective bumper or guard comprising:

- a dome-shaped pad of semi-rigid material;
- said pad having a flat bottom defined by a circular peripheral edge;
- an elongated shaft of rigid material having a wedged tip at one of its two ends and a retention head at its other end for securement in said pad;
- said head having outwardly projecting flanges embedded in said semi-rigid material for retaining said shaft along a central longitudinal axis of said pad;
- said pad adapted to receive penetration of jagged edges and points;
- said dome-shaped pad having an apex with a recess therein;
- and
- an identification disk secured in said recess below and an exterior surface of said pad.